



NEWSLETTER – Winter 2010.

Hi Everyone,

There is plenty going on so lots to tell you.

Firstly some dates for your diary, remember everybody is welcome at our events so bring your friends and family:

Thursday 11th March in New Life Church at 7.30pm: Open Meeting - Congleton and Climate Change.

An open meeting with Congleton Sustainability Group showing off what is happening in 2010.

Stalls to visit and lots of discussion for you to learn about what we're challenging and changing.

Saturday 20th March in the Town Hall from 11am to 2pm: Revolution in Renewables

A roadshow of domestic renewable technologies for you to learn all about what might make sense for your home.

It will be particularly relevant in light of the government's recent announcement about feed in tariffs.

When you visit the roadshow you will also be the first to find out about how our **Fossil Fuel Free Beartown** campaign will help you.

Sunday 25th April 2pm to 4pm at Astbury Mere Visitor Centre: Seedling Sunday

An opportunity to bring along all your spare garden or house plants, seeds and cuttings and swap them with other green fingered gardeners.

Music, refreshments and free gardening advice.

Local Food Abundance:

Following the success of **Congleton Apple Juice 2009** we are going to start collecting apples much earlier this year and aim produce lots more apple juice for 2010, so prune your trees for maximum yield and tell everyone else too!

The money we collected from the 2009 apple juice helped fund 4 **new apple trees** for each of Congleton's schools!

We are building on last years successful Seed Swap starting with the **Seedling Swap** in April and a second Seed Swap later in the year.

We want to encourage you all to grow like crazy this coming year! Two reasons, as the season progresses we will organise **abundance produce 'car boot' sales** where we can all buy fruit and veg from each other.

Secondly, we are planning to work with a local producer who will turn all the abundance you have into **Congleton Jams, Chutney and Pickles** so we should have more than just Congleton Apple Juice this year!

Talk to us about the produce you plan to grow this year so that none goes to waste!

Fossil Fuel Free Beartown:

All the work we did for the Low Carbon Communities Challenge bid, (which we weren't successful with, pity!) is being put to good use in the Fossil Fuel Free Beartown campaign. All will be revealed at the Revolution in Renewables roadshow detailed above, but we know that we need more volunteer support than we have at the moment.

We are going to recruit volunteers to be **Energy Champions** who will be trained to liaise with members of the public interested in improving the energy efficiency of their homes but who are not sure where to start. If you or anybody you know might be interested in becoming a Energy Champion then call me or drop me an email!

Website:

Our web presence is not very good yet, mainly because we have been busy with more important things, but we are working hard on having our own site at www.congletontransition.org so keep looking!

Transition Town Status:

You may remember that we plan to gain accreditation as a Transition Town later this year. We are working on our submissions to that end and should become accredited in the Autumn.

Request for help:

A Sustainability Group member has written to me with the following request, if can you help call me or drop me an email.

I have a good friend who is launching a new website called The Little Allotment Company within the next couple of months. The idea of the site is to bring together information and experiences from anyone producing anything home grown or home made, be it vegetables, free range eggs, honey, rabbit hutches, home brew etc.

She's looking for people who would be happy to have a picture of themselves on the site and a brief explanation of what they do e.g. I have a friend who is a bee keeper and produces his own honey and beeswax candles. He's going to have a photograph of himself on the site with his bees and honey, and in return he gets free advertising on the site to promote his business.

Do you know anyone who has a small holding who would be happy for me to have a brief chat with them and take a few photos to go on the website?

W³ Weekly Watch Watts:

Don't forget our support for the national www.1010uk.org campaign. Have you signed up yet to try to reduce your energy consumption by 10% next year?

One of the group, Mike Taylor, has designed a very simple poster and guidance notes to help you track your savings at home. I promise you its great fun and very interesting – why not print a copy (attached) and try it for yourself?

Any questions, comments or input at all, please reply to me and we'll get back to you!

Kind regards,

Peter Aston,

Chair,

Congleton Sustainability Group.

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